

# PROTECT OUR CARE

## By The Numbers: How Medicaid Strengthens South Dakota

Medicaid is not only a lifeline for millions of South Dakotans, it strengthens our communities in countless ways. These are reasons why the program is overwhelmingly popular: [74 percent](#) of Americans support Medicaid.

### SOUTH DAKOTANS DEPEND ON MEDICAID

- **118,085 South Dakotans Are Covered Through Medicaid.** Over 118,085 South Dakotans [have medical coverage](#) through Medicaid - most of them children, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- **In South Dakota, Parents Up To 50 Percent Of The Federal Poverty Line May Enroll In Medicaid.** By not fully expanding Medicaid, South Dakota has restricted its Medicaid program such that only Parents earning up to 50 percent [of the federal poverty line](#) are eligible to enroll in Medicaid. If South Dakota expanded its program, 80,000 [more adults](#) could gain coverage through Medicaid.

### MEDICAID IS A LIFELINE FOR CHILDREN, SENIORS, AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

**32 Percent of South Dakota's Children Rely on Medicaid.** 32 percent of South Dakota [children rely](#) on Medicaid for coverage. Medicaid pays almost \$4 billion annually in school-based health services. Schools depend on these funds connect students with vital health resources — [68 percent](#) of school superintendents said that they used these funds to keep nurses, counselors, and speech therapists on staff.

**Medicaid Supports 52 Percent Of South Dakotans In Nursing Homes.** 52 percent of South Dakotans living in nursing homes [have coverage](#) through Medicaid.

**Medicaid Covers 15 Percent of South Dakota's Seniors and People with Disabilities.** In South Dakota, 15 percent of seniors and people with disabilities [have health coverage through Medicaid](#), including for nursing home care. Nationally, approximately [one in four people](#) on Medicaid are seniors (9 percent) or people with disabilities (15 percent). However, their care represents about [two-thirds](#) of all Medicaid spending. In other words, funding cuts to Medicaid will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable.

### MEDICAID HELPS SOUTH DAKOTANS ACCESS TREATMENT FOR OPIOID ADDICTION

**Medicaid Covers [One In Four](#) Americans With An Opioid Use Disorder.** Medicaid pays for 11 percent of South Dakota's [buprenorphine](#) expenditure, a medication used to treat opioid addiction.

### REPUBLICANS' WAR ON THE ACA AND MEDICAID JEOPARDIZES COVERAGE FOR NEARLY 120,000 SOUTH DAKOTANS

**118,085 South Dakotans With Traditional Medicaid Coverage, Including Seniors, People With Disabilities, And Children, Are At Risk.** The Graham-Cassidy bill that President Trump revived in his FY19 budget proposal would turn traditional Medicaid into a per capita cap, meaning the 118,085 South Dakotans who are [enrolled](#) on Medicaid would have their care jeopardized. Medicaid disproportionately helps children, seniors in nursing home care and people with disabilities. A study by [Avalere](#) found that Graham-Cassidy would cut funding for people with disabilities by 15 percent and 31 percent for children by 2036.

**80,813 South Dakota Children's Care Is At Risk.** 80,813 South Dakota kids are currently [enrolled](#) in Medicaid and CHIP, and their care could be at risk because of funding cuts in Graham-Cassidy.